

***Remarks of Anna Gallant  
Social Studies Teacher  
Region 11***

**For the Education Committee  
On Senate Bill No. 24  
Section 29 Teacher Tenure**

**February 21, 2012**

My name is Anna Gallant, and I'm a social studies teacher in Regional District 11. Senator Stillman, Representative Fleischmann and members of the Education Committee, I am writing to comment on Senate Bill 24, Section 29, teacher tenure.

This committee is discussing changing one of the basic tenets of teaching which tenure is. Teacher tenure has been a major standard for most educators. Reaching tenure status in a school system has meant that you as a teacher have successfully demonstrated that you have the ability to teach your students.

As an educator, I have worked many hours to provide my students with the skills and information they need to succeed. The dedication, the caring and most importantly the willingness to spend countless hours with students, parents and other teachers to help students succeed is rarely appreciated by the general public.

In fact, I would venture a guess that the majority of the general public does not understand teacher tenure and what it is. For teachers any changes decided by this committee will impact us in the future. If the proposed changes are made, teachers with twenty or more years of experience will be threatened, since superintendents and boards of education are always looking to slash their educational budgets especially with teacher salaries being the highest cost in school budgets. There is no guarantee that good veteran teachers would not be terminated.

I would like the committee to seriously consider not eliminating or changing teacher tenure. I urge you not to weaken education but make it stronger by adopting teacher tenure as proposed by the Connecticut Education Association.